

Generalized Lantern Relations and Planar Line Arrangements

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ABSTRACT. In this paper we show that to each planar line arrangement defined over the real numbers, for which no two lines are parallel, one can write down a corresponding relation on Dehn twists that can be read off from the combinatorics and relative locations of intersections. This gives an alternate proof of Wajnryb's generalized lantern relations, and of Endo, Mark and Horn-Morris' daisy relations.

1. Introduction

Braid monodromy is a useful tool for studying the topology of complements of line arrangements as is seen in work of [13], [3], [4]. In this paper, we adapt braid monodromy techniques to generate relations on Dehn twists in the mapping class group $\mathrm{MCG}(S)$ of an oriented surface S of finite type.

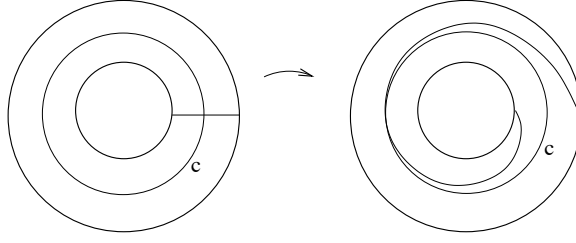
The study of hyperplane arrangements has a rich history in the realms of topology, algebraic geometry, and analysis (see, for example, [14] for a survey). While easy to draw, the deformation theory of real planar line arrangements \mathcal{L} holds many mysteries. For example, there are topologically distinct real line arrangements with equivalent combinatorics [1] [15]. Moreover, by the Sylvester-Gallai theorem [7] there are planar line arrangements defined over complex numbers, whose combinatorics cannot be duplicated by a real line arrangement, for example, the lines joining flexes of a smooth cubic curve. Braid monodromy is a convenient tool for encoding the local and global topology of \mathcal{L} .

The lantern relation on Dehn twists is of special interest because it with four other simple to state relations generate all relations in the Dehn-Lickorish-Humphries presentation of $\mathrm{MCG}(S)$ (see [2], [8], [12], [17]). The lantern relation also plays an important role in J. Harer's proof that the abelianization of $\mathrm{MCG}(S)$ is trivial if S is a closed surface of genus $g \geq 3$ [9] (cf., [8], Sec. 5.1.2).

Let S be an oriented surface of finite type. If S is closed, the mapping class group $\mathrm{MCG}(S)$ is the group of isotopy classes of self-homeomorphisms of S . If S has boundary components, then the definition of $\mathrm{MCG}(S)$ has the additional condition that all maps fix the boundary of S pointwise. For a compact annulus A , $\mathrm{MCG}(A)$ is isomorphic to \mathbb{Z} and is generated by a right or left Dehn twist centered at its core

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FIGURE 1. Right Dehn twist on an annulus A .

curve. As illustrated in Figure 1, a right Dehn twist takes an arc on A transverse to the core curve to an arc that wraps once around the core curve turning in the right hand direction (a left Dehn twist correspondingly turns in the left direction) as it passes through c . A Dehn twist can also be thought of as rotating one of the boundary components by 360° while leaving the other boundary component fixed. Each simple closed curve c on S determines a right Dehn twist on an annulus neighborhood of c , and this Dehn twist extends by the identity to all of S . The isotopy class ∂_c of this map is the (*right*) *Dehn twist centered at c* and is an element of $\text{MCG}(S)$.

The original statement and proof of the lantern relation appears in Dehn's 1938 paper [5] and relates a product of three interior Dehn twists to four boundary twists on a genus zero surface with four boundary components. The relation was rediscovered by D. Johnson [11], and B. Wajnryb gave the following generalized version in [18] (Lemma 17).

THEOREM 1.1 (Wajnryb). *Let $S_{0,n+1}^c \subset S$ be a surface of genus zero with $n+1$ boundary components d_0, d_1, \dots, d_n . There is a collection of simple closed curves $a_{i,j}$, $1 \leq i < j \leq n$ in the interior of $S_{0,n+1}^c$, so that*

- (1) *for each i, j , $a_{i,j}$ separates $d_i \cup d_j$ from the rest of the boundary components, and*
- (2) *there is a relation on Dehn twists*

$$(1.1) \quad \partial_0(\partial_1 \cdots \partial_n)^{n-2} = \alpha_{1,2} \cdots \alpha_{1,n} \alpha_{2,3} \cdots \alpha_{2,n} \cdots \alpha_{n-2,n-1} \alpha_{n-2,n} \alpha_{n-1,n},$$

where $\alpha_{i,j}$ is the right Dehn twist centered at $a_{i,j}$, and ∂_i is the right Dehn twist centered at a curve parallel to the boundary components d_i .

We now generalize Theorem 1.1 in terms of line arrangements in \mathbb{R}^2 .

THEOREM 1.2. *Let \mathcal{L} be a union of $n \geq 3$ distinct lines in the (x, y) -plane over the reals with distinct slopes and no slope parallel to the y -axis. Let $\mathcal{I} = \{p_1, \dots, p_s\}$ be the intersection points on \mathcal{L} numbered by largest to smallest x -coordinate. For each $L \in \mathcal{L}$, let μ_L be the number of points in $\mathcal{I} \cap L$. Let $S_{0,n+1}^c$ be a surface of genus zero and $n+1$ boundary components, one denoted d_L for each $L \in \mathcal{L}$, and one extra boundary component d_0 . Then there are simple closed curve a_{p_k} , $k = 1, \dots, s$ on $S_{0,n+1}^c$ so that the following holds:*

- (1) *each a_{p_k} separates*

$$\bigcup_{p_k \in L \in \mathcal{L}} d_L$$

from the rest of the boundary curves; and

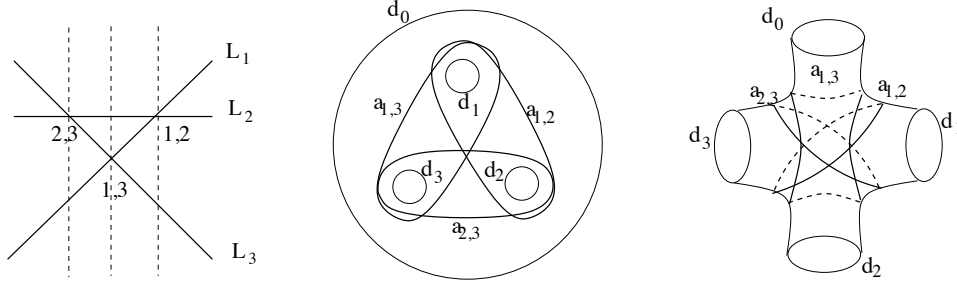


FIGURE 2. Three lines in general position, and curves defining associated lantern relation drawn two ways.

(2) the Dehn twist ∂_L centered at d_L and α_{p_k} centered at a_{p_k} satisfy

$$(1.2) \quad \partial_0 \prod_{L \in \mathcal{L}} \partial_L^{\mu_L - 1} = \alpha_{p_s} \cdots \alpha_{p_1}.$$

REMARK 1.3. In Equation (1.2), the terms on the left side commute, while the ones on the right typically don't. Thus, the ordering of p_1, \dots, p_s matters, and reflects the global (as opposed to local) combinatorics of the line arrangement. The curves a_{p_k} can be found explicitly (see Section 2.2, Lemma 2.1).

REMARK 1.4. The relations in $\text{MCG}(S_{0,n+1}^c)$ give rise to relations on $\text{MCG}(S)$ for any surface S admitting an embedding $S_{0,n+1}^c \hookrightarrow S$.

When $n = 3$, Theorem 1.1 gives the standard Lantern relation

$$\partial_0 \partial_1 \partial_2 \partial_3 = \alpha_{1,2} \alpha_{1,3} \alpha_{2,3}.$$

The core curves for these Dehn twists and the corresponding line arrangements are shown in Figure 2. The diagram to the right is the motivation for the name of this relation.

Here is a sketch of our proof of Theorem 1.2. First consider a great ball $B \subset \mathbb{C}^2$ containing all the points of intersection of \mathcal{L} . Let \mathbb{CP}^2 be the projective compactification of \mathbb{C}^2 . Then the complement of B in \mathbb{CP}^2 is a neighborhood of the “line at infinity” or $L_\infty = \mathbb{CP}^2 \setminus \mathbb{C}^2$. Let $\rho : \mathbb{C}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a generic projection. The monodromy of ρ over the boundary γ of a large disk in \mathbb{C} depends only on the way \mathcal{L} intersects L_∞ . If no lines in \mathcal{L} are parallel to each other, then it is possible to move the lines in \mathcal{L} to obtain a new configuration \mathcal{T} where all lines meet at a single point without changing any slopes, and hence the topology of $\mathbb{CP}^2 \setminus B$ remains the same (Lemma 2.3). Thus, the monodromies over γ defined by \mathcal{L} and \mathcal{T} are the same. Theorem 1.2 then follows from a description of the monodromy of line arrangements on compactified fibers of a generic projection (Lemma 2.1). The monodromy can be interpreted as point pushing maps, where we keep track of twisting on the boundary components of the compactified fibers using the complex coordinate system of the ambient space \mathbb{C}^2 (Lemma 2.2).

This paper is organized as follows. In Section 2.1 we recall the Moishezon-Teicher braid monodromy representation of a free group associated to a planar line arrangement. We refine the representation so that its image is the mapping class group of compactified fibers in Section 2.2. In Section 2.3, we prove Theorem 1.2

using deformations of line arrangements and give further variations of the lantern relation, including the daisy relation (Theorem 3.1).

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2. Real line arrangements and relations on Dehn twists

In this section, we analyze line arrangements \mathcal{L} in the complex plane defined by real equations and the monodromy on generic fibers under linear projections

$$\mathbb{C}^2 \setminus \mathcal{L} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}.$$

A key ingredient is B. Moishezon and M. Teicher description of the monodromy as elements of the pure braid group. (See, for example, [13] and [10].) We generalize this braid monodromy by studying the action of the monodromy not only on generic fibers of ρ , but also on their compactifications as genus zero surfaces with boundary. This leads to a proof of Theorem 1.2.

The ideas in this section can be generalized to more arbitrary plane curves. An investigation of the topology of plane curve complements using such general projections appears in work of O. Zariski and E. van Kampen [16]. We leave this as a topic for future study.

2.1. Braid monodromy defined by planar line arrangements over the reals. In this section we recall the Moishezon-Teicher braid monodromy associated to a real line arrangement. For convenience we choose Euclidean coordinates (x, y) for \mathbb{C}^2 so that no line is parallel to the y -axis, and no two intersection points have the same x -coordinate. For $i = 1, \dots, n$, let L_i be the zero set of a linear equation in x and y with real coefficients:

$$L_i = \{(x, y) ; y = m_i x + c_i\} \quad m_i, c_i \in \mathbb{R}$$

and assume that the lines are ordered so that the slopes satisfy:

$$m_1 > m_2 > \dots > m_n.$$

Let $\mathcal{I} = \mathcal{I}(\mathcal{L}) = \{p_1, \dots, p_s\} \subset \mathbb{C}^2$ be the collection of intersection points of \mathcal{L} ordered so that the x -coordinates are strictly decreasing.

Let $\rho : \mathbb{C}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be the projection of \mathbb{C}^2 onto \mathbb{C} given by $\rho(x, y) = x$. For each $x \in \mathbb{C}$, let

$$F_x = \rho^{-1}(x) \setminus \mathcal{L}.$$

The y -coordinate allows us to uniformly identify F_x with the complement in \mathbb{C} of n points $L_i(x)$, where

$$\{(x, L_i(x))\} = \rho^{-1}(x) \cap L_i.$$

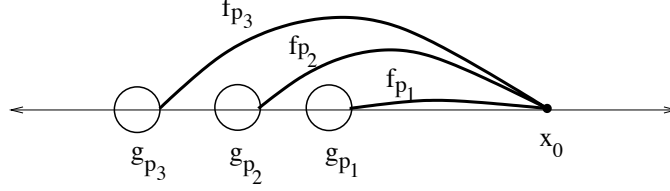
Thus, we will think of F_x as a continuous family of copies of \mathbb{C} minus a finite set of points, rather than as a subset of \mathbb{C}^2 .

Let $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}$ be greater than any point in $\rho(\mathcal{I})$. Then there is a natural map

$$\gamma : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \setminus \rho(\mathcal{I})$$

from arcs based at x_0 to a braid on n strands in \mathbb{C} parameterized by

$$\{L_i(\gamma(t)) : i = 1, \dots, n\}.$$

FIGURE 3. Simple loop generators for $\pi_1(\mathbb{C} \setminus \rho(\mathcal{I}))$.

Since two homotopic arcs give rise to isotopic braids, and a composition of arcs gives rise to a composition of braids, we have a homomorphism

$$\beta : \pi_1(\mathbb{C} \setminus \rho(\mathcal{I}), x_0) \rightarrow B(S^2, n+1)$$

from the fundamental group to the spherical braid group on $n+1$ strands.

The (braid) monodromy of $(\mathbb{C}^2, \mathcal{L})$ with respect to the projection ρ and base-point x_0 is the homomorphism

$$(2.1) \quad \sigma_{\mathcal{L}} : \pi_1(\mathbb{C} \setminus \rho(\mathcal{I}), x_0) \rightarrow \text{MCG}(F_{x_0}),$$

given by the composition of β and the braid representation

$$B(S^2, n+1) \rightarrow \text{MCG}(S_{0,n+1}) = \text{MCG}(F_{x_0}),$$

from the braid group to the mapping class group on a genus zero surface with $n+1$ punctures.

We now study the image of simple generators of $\pi_1(\mathbb{C} \setminus \rho(\mathcal{I}), x_0)$ in $\text{MCG}(F_{x_0})$.

By a simple loop in $\pi_1(\mathbb{C} \setminus \rho(\mathcal{I}), x_0)$, we mean a arc of the form $\ell_p = f_p g_p f_p^{-1}$, where $p \in \rho(\mathcal{I})$, $\epsilon_p > 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} g_p : [0, 1] &\rightarrow \mathbb{C} \setminus \rho(\mathcal{I}) \\ t &\mapsto p + \epsilon_p e^{2\pi i t} \end{aligned}$$

and f_p is a arc from x_0 to $p + \epsilon_p$ whose image is in the upper half plane except at its endpoints. Since $\pi_1(\mathbb{C} \setminus \rho(\mathcal{I}), x_0)$ is generated by simple loops, it is enough to understand the monodromy in the image of these elements.

In order to describe the monodromy of ℓ_p we study how F_x is transformed as x follows its arc segments g_p and f_p . First we look at g_p . Let $L_{j_1}, L_{j_2}, \dots, L_{j_k}$ be the lines in \mathcal{L} that pass through p . We can assume by a translation of coordinates that $p = 0$, and L_{j_r} is defined by an equation of the form

$$y = m_r x$$

where $m_1 > m_2 > \dots > m_k$. Then as t varies in $[0, 1]$, the intersection of L_{j_r} with $\rho^{-1}(g_p(t))$ is given by

$$L_{j_r}(g_p(t)) = (\epsilon_p e^{2\pi i t}, m_r \epsilon_p e^{2\pi i t}).$$

The other lines in \mathcal{L} locally can be thought of as having constant slope, hence their intersections with $\rho^{-1}(g_p(t))$ retain their order and stay outside a circle on $F_{g_p(t)}$ enclosing $L_{j_1}(g_p(t)), \dots, L_{j_k}(g_p(t))$ (see Figure 4). Let $a_p^{\text{loc}} \subset F_{p+\epsilon}$ be this circle. The restriction of ρ to $\mathbb{C}^2 \setminus \mathcal{L}$ defines a trivial bundle over the image of f_p . Thus a_p^{loc} determines a simple closed curve a_p on F_{x_0} separating $L_{j_1}(x_0), \dots, L_{j_k}(x_0)$ from the rest of the $L_j(x_0)$.

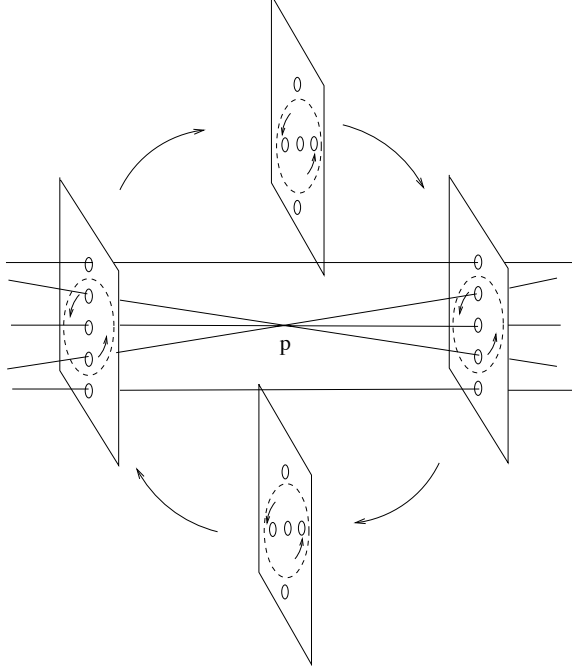


FIGURE 4. Monodromy defined by g_p with the real part of \mathcal{L} drawn in.

Next we notice that lifting over f_p defines a mapping class on F_{x_0} . This is because there is a canonical identification of F_{x_0} and F_x for any $x \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \rho(\mathcal{I})$ given by the natural ordering of $\mathcal{L} \cap \rho^{-1}(x)$ by the size of the y -coordinate from largest to smallest. Thus f_p determines a braid on n strands and corresponding mapping class $\beta_p \in \text{MCG}(F_{x_0}^c)$. We have shown the following.

LEMMA 2.1. *Let $\ell_p = f_p g_p f_p^{-1}$. The element $\sigma_{\mathcal{L}}(\ell_p)$ in $\text{MCG}(F_{x_0}^c)$ is the Dehn twist α_p centered at $a_p = \beta_p^{-1}(a_p^{\text{loc}})$.*

Proof. By the above descriptions of the fibers above the arcs f_p and g_p , we can decompose $\sigma_{\mathcal{L}}(\ell_p)$ as

$$\alpha_p = \beta_p^{-1} \circ \sigma_p \circ \beta_p,$$

where σ_p is a right Dehn twist centered at $a_p^{\text{loc}} = \beta_p(a_p)$. □

2.2. Monodromy on compactified fibers. In this section, we define the monodromy representation of $\pi_1(\mathbb{C}^2 \setminus \mathcal{L}, y_0)$ into $\text{MCG}(F_{x_0}^c)$, where $F_{x_0}^c$ is a compactification of F_{x_0} as a compact surface with boundary.

As before choose coordinates for \mathbb{C}^2 , and let $\mathcal{L} = \cup_{i=1}^n L_i$ be a planar line arrangement defined over the reals with distinct slopes. Assume all points of intersection \mathcal{I} have distinct x -coordinates. Let $\epsilon > 0$ be such that the ϵ radius disks $N_\epsilon(p)$ around the points $p \in \rho(\mathcal{I})$ are disjoint. Let $\delta > 0$ be such that the δ radius tubular neighborhoods $N_\delta(L_i)$ around L_i are disjoint in the complement of

$$\bigcup_{p \in \rho(\mathcal{I})} \rho^{-1}(N_\epsilon(p)).$$

Let D be a disk in \mathbb{C} containing all points of $\rho(\mathcal{I})$ in its interior, and having x_0 on its boundary. Let N_∞ be a disk centered at the origin of \mathbb{C} so that $\mathbb{C} \times N_\infty$ contains $\mathcal{L} \cap \rho^{-1}(D)$.

For each $x \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \rho(\mathcal{I})$, let

$$F_x^c = \rho^{-1}(x) \cap (\mathbb{C} \times N_\infty \setminus \cup_{i=1}^n N_\delta(L_i)) \subset F_x \setminus N_\delta(L_i).$$

For each $x \in D$ and $i = 1, \dots, n$, let

$$d_i(x) = \partial N_\delta(L_i) \cap F_x.$$

We are now ready to define the monodromy on the compactified fibers

$$\sigma_{\mathcal{L}}^c : \pi_1(F_{x_0}, y_0) \rightarrow \text{MCG}(F_{x_0}^c).$$

Let η be the *inclusion homomorphism*

$$\eta : \text{MCG}(F_{x_0}^c) \rightarrow \text{MCG}(F_{x_0}),$$

that is, the homomorphism induced by inclusion $F_{x_0}^c \subset F_{x_0}$. Then we would like to have a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \pi_1(\mathbb{C} \setminus \rho(\mathcal{I}), y_0) & \xrightarrow{\sigma_{\mathcal{L}}^c} & \text{MCG}(F_0^c) \\ & \searrow \sigma_{\mathcal{L}} & \downarrow \eta \\ & & \text{MCG}(F_0). \end{array}$$

The kernel of η is generated by Dehn twists centered at the boundary components of $F_{x_0}^c$ (Theorem 3.18, [8]). Thus, in order to describe $\sigma_{\mathcal{L}}^c$, we need to understand what twists occur near boundary components in the monodromy associated to the arcs g_p and f_p defined in Section 2.1.

Consider the simplest case when $L \subset \mathbb{C}^2$ is a single line defined by

$$y = L(x) = mx.$$

Let $N_\delta(L)$ be the tubular neighborhood around L in \mathbb{C}^2

$$N_\delta(L) = \{(x, L(x) + y) : |y| < \delta\}.$$

Then $N_\delta(L) \cap F_{g(t)}$ is a disk centered at $L(g(t))$ of radius δ . The boundary $\partial N_\delta(L)$ is a trivial bundle over $\mathbb{C} \setminus \delta(\rho(\mathcal{I}))$ with trivialization defined by the framing of \mathbb{C} by real and purely imaginary coordinates.

Now assume that there are several lines L_{j_1}, \dots, L_{j_k} meeting above $p \in \rho(\mathcal{I})$. Let L be a line through p with slope equal to the average of those of L_{j_1}, \dots, L_{j_k} , and let $\delta > 0$ be such that $N_\delta(L) \cap F_{g_p(t)}$ contains $d_{j_1}(g_p(t)), \dots, d_{j_k}(g_p(t))$, but no other boundary components of $F_{g_p(t)}^c$, for all t . Let $d_p(t)$ be the boundary component of $F_{g_p(0)}$ given by

$$d_p(t) = \partial N_\epsilon(L) \cap F_{g_p(t)}.$$

Let $d_p = d_p(0)$ and $d_{j_i} = d_{j_i}(g_p(0))$.

Then looking at Figure 4, we see that the points $L_{j_1}(g_p(t)), \dots, L_{j_k}(g_p(t))$ rotate as a group 360° in the counterclockwise direction as t ranges in $[0, 1]$. The corresponding mapping class on the bounded portion of $F_{g_p(0)}$ enclosed by d_p is the composition of a clockwise full rotation of d_p and a counterclockwise rotation around d_{j_1}, \dots, d_{j_k} . It can also be thought of as moving the inner boundary components $d_{j_1}(g_p(0))$ in a clockwise direction while leaving all orientations of boundary components fixed with respect to the complex framing of \mathbb{C} .

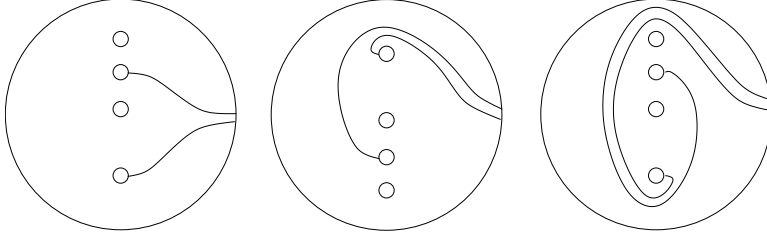
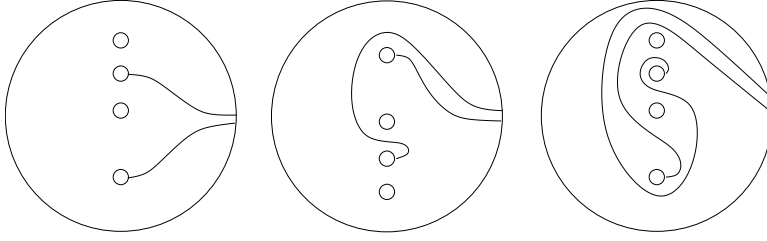
FIGURE 5. The mapping class ∂_{d_p} .FIGURE 6. The monodromy defined by g_p .

Figure 5 illustrates the Dehn twist ∂_{d_p} centered at a simple closed curve parallel to d_p and Figure 6 shows the monodromy $\sigma_{\mathcal{L}}^c(g_p)$ in the case when \mathcal{L} is a union of 4 lines meeting at a single point p . In both figures, the middle picture illustrates the fiber $F_{g_p(0.5)}$ half way around the circle traversed by g_p . From the above discussion, we have

$$\sigma_{\mathcal{L}}^c(g_p) = (\partial_{d_1} \partial_{d_2} \partial_{d_3} \partial_{d_4})^{-1} \partial_{d_p}.$$

More generally we have the following lemma.

LEMMA 2.2. *Let L_{j_1}, \dots, L_{j_k} be the lines meeting above p , and let*

$$\begin{aligned} g_p : [0, 1] &\rightarrow \mathbb{C} \setminus \mathcal{L} \\ t &\mapsto p + \epsilon e^{2\pi i t}. \end{aligned}$$

Then the monodromy on $F_{g_p(0)}^c$ defined by g_p is given by

$$\sigma_{\mathcal{L}}^c(g_p) = (\partial_{d_{j_1}} \cdots \partial_{d_{j_k}})^{-1} \partial_{d_p}.$$

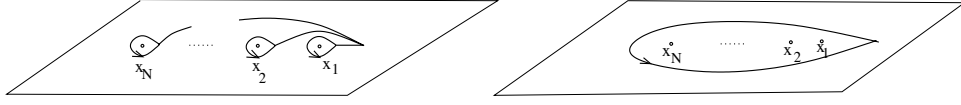
2.3. Deformations of line arrangements. To finish our proof of Theorem 1.2 we analyze the effect of deforming a line arrangement.

Let

$$\mathcal{L} = \bigcup_{i=1}^n L_i$$

be a finite union of real lines in the Euclidean plane, \mathbb{R}^2 with no two lines parallel. Let \mathcal{T} be the complexified real line arrangement with all n lines intersecting at a single point p_0 . Let $\rho : \mathbb{C}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a generic projection, and let $D \subset \mathbb{C}$ be a disk of radius r centered at the origin containing $\rho(\mathcal{T})$ and $\rho(p_0)$ in its interior. Let

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma : [0, 1] &\rightarrow \mathbb{C} \\ t &\mapsto r e^{2\pi i t}. \end{aligned}$$

FIGURE 7. Two representatives of γ in $\pi_1(\mathbb{C} \setminus \rho(\mathcal{I}))$.

LEMMA 2.3. *The monodromies $\sigma_{\mathcal{L}}^c(\gamma)$ and $\sigma_{\mathcal{T}}^c(\gamma)$ are the same.*

Proof. Let

$$D_\infty = N_\infty \times \mathbb{C} \cap \rho^{-1}(\partial D).$$

Then $D_\infty \setminus \mathcal{T}$ and $D_\infty \setminus \mathcal{L}$ are isomorphic as fiber bundles over γ and hence the monodromies over γ defined by \mathcal{L} and \mathcal{T} are the same up to isotopy. \square

Proof of Theorem 1.2. By Lemma 2.3, $\sigma_{\mathcal{L}}^c(\gamma) = \sigma_{\mathcal{T}}^c(\gamma)$. Figure 7 gives an illustration of two equivalent representations of the homotopy type of γ .

By Lemma 2.1 and Lemma 2.2, we have

$$\sigma_{\mathcal{T}}^c(\gamma) = (\partial_{d_1} \cdots \partial_{d_n})^{-1} \partial_{d_p}.$$

Let p_1, \dots, p_s be the elements of \mathcal{I} numbered by decreasing x -coordinate. Then for each $i = 1, \dots, s$, we have

$$\sigma_{\mathcal{L}}^c(f_{p_i} g_{p_i} f_{p_i}^{-1}) = (\partial_{d_{j_1}} \cdots \partial_{d_{j_k}})^{-1} \alpha_{p_i}$$

where α_{p_i} is the pullback of d_{p_i} along the arc f_{p_i} . Thus,

$$\sigma_{\mathcal{L}}^c(\gamma) = (\partial_{d_1}^{\mu_1} \cdots \partial_{d_s}^{\mu_s})^{-1} \alpha_{p_s} \cdots \alpha_{p_1},$$

where μ_i is the number of elements in $\mathcal{I} \cap L_i$. \square

To show that Theorem 1.1 follows from Theorem 1.2, we need to show that the ordering given in Equation (1.1) can be obtained by a union of lines \mathcal{L} satisfying the conditions. To do this, we start with a union of lines \mathcal{T} intersecting in a single point. Let L_1, \dots, L_n be the lines in \mathcal{T} ordered from largest to smallest slope. Translate L_1 in the positive x direction without changing its slope so that the intersections of the translated line L'_1 with L_2, \dots, L_n have decreasing x -coordinate. Continue for each line from highest to lowest slope, making sure with each time that the shifting L creates new intersections lying to the left of all previously created ones.

More generally, we can deform the lines through a single point \mathcal{T} to one in general position \mathcal{L} so that the only condition on the resulting ordering on the pairs of lines is the following. A pair (i, j) must precede $(i, j+1)$ for each $1 \leq i < j \leq n$. Thus, we have proved the following restatement of Theorem 1.1.

THEOREM 2.4. *Let $\{p_1, \dots, p_s\}$ be an ordering of the pairs (i, j) , $1 \leq i < j \leq n$, so that for all i , the sequence*

$$(i, i+1), (i, i+2), \dots, (i, n)$$

is strictly decreasing. Then there a lantern relation of the form

$$\partial_0 (\partial_1 \cdots \partial_n)^{n-2} = \alpha_{p_1} \cdots \alpha_{p_s}.$$

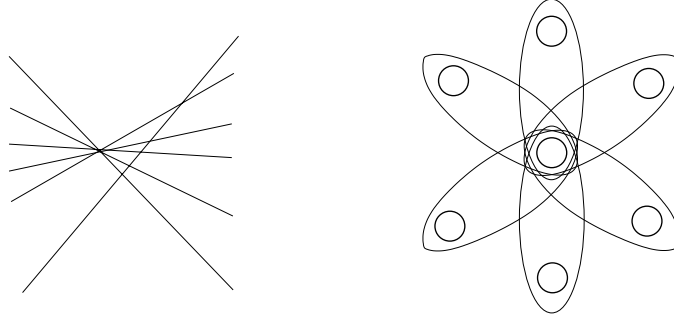


FIGURE 8. Line arrangement, and associated arrangement of curves ($n=6$).

3. Applications

Although it is known that all relations on the Dehn-Lickorish-Humphries generators can be obtained from the braid, chain, lantern and hyperelliptic relations, there are some other nice symmetric relations that come out of line arrangements that are not trivially derived from the four generating ones. We conclude this paper with a sampling.

3.1. Daisy relation. Consider the line arrangements given in Figure 8. As pointed out to me by D. Margalit, this relation was recently also discovered by H. Endo, T. Mark, and J. Van Horn-Morris using rational blowdowns of 4-manifolds [6]. We follow their nomenclature and call this the *daisy relation*.

Let $S_{0,n+1}^c$ denote the compact surface of genus 0 with $n+1$ boundary components. Consider the configuration of simple closed curves shown in Figure 8. Let d_0, \dots, d_n be the boundary components of $S_{0,n+1}^c$. Let d_1 be the distinguished boundary component at the center of the arrangement, and let d_0, d_2, \dots, d_n be the boundary components arranged in a circle (ordered in the clockwise direction around d_1). Let $a_{1,k}$ be a simple closed loop encircling d_1 and d_k , where $k = 0, 2, 3, \dots, n$. Let ∂_i be the Dehn twist centered at d_i , and let $\alpha_{1,k}$ be the Dehn twist centered at $a_{1,k}$.

THEOREM 3.1. [*Daisy relation*] For $n \geq 3$, the Dehn twists on $S_{0,n+1}^c$ satisfy the relation

$$\partial_0 \partial_1^{n-2} \partial_2 \cdots \partial_n = \alpha_{1,0} \alpha_{1,n} \cdots \alpha_{1,2}$$

where ∂_i is the Dehn twist centered at the boundary component d_i , and $\alpha_{1,j}$ is the Dehn twist centered at curves $a_{1,j}$.

When $n = 3$, Theorem 3.1 specializes to the usual lantern relation.

Proof. We associate the boundary component d_i with L_i for $i = 1, \dots, n$, and d_0 with the “line at infinity”. Theorem 1.2 applied to the line arrangement in Figure 8 gives:

$$\partial_0 (\partial_1 \cdots \partial_n)^{-1} = R_{p_n} \cdots R_{p_1}$$

where p_1, \dots, p_n are the intersection points of the line arrangement \mathcal{L} ordered by largest to smallest x -coordinate. For this configuration, p_k gives rise to

$$R_{p_k} = (\partial_1 \partial_{k+1})^{-1} \alpha_{1,k+1},$$

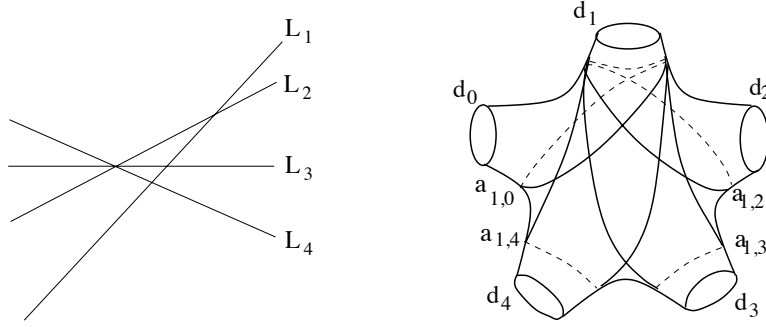
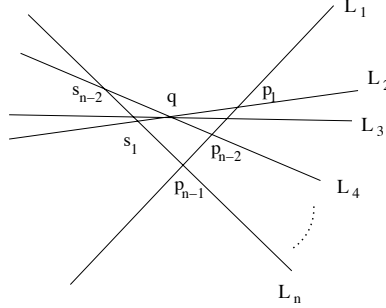

 FIGURE 9. Alternate drawing of the daisy configuration ($n=4$).


FIGURE 10. Configuration of lines giving rise to the doubled daisy relation.

for $k = 1, \dots, n-1$. Noting that the loop that separates $d_2 \cup \dots \cup d_n$ from $d_0 \cup d_1$ can be written as $a_{1,0}$, we have

$$R_{p_n} = (\partial_2 \cdots \partial_{n-1})^{-1} \alpha_{1,0}$$

yielding the desired formula. \square

REMARK 3.2. Let

$$\beta : B(S^2, n+1) \rightarrow \text{MCG}(S_{0,n+1})$$

be the braid representation from the spherical braid group to the mapping class group. Recall the relation R in $B(S^2, n+1)$ given by

$$\begin{aligned} (\sigma_1^2)(\sigma_1^{-1}\sigma_2^2\sigma_1) \cdots (\sigma_1^{-1}\sigma_2^{-1} \cdots \sigma_{n-1}^{-1}\sigma_n^2\sigma_{n-1} \cdots \sigma_1) &= \sigma_1 \cdots \sigma_{n-1}\sigma_n^2\sigma_{n-1} \cdots \sigma_1. \\ &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

This induces a relation R' in $\text{MCG}(S_{0,n+1})$. The daisy relation can be considered as the lift of R' under the inclusion homomorphism η .

3.2. Doubled daisy relation. As a final example, we consider a configuration of $n \geq 5$ lines, with $n-2$ meeting in a single point. There are several ways this can be drawn. We give one example in Figure 10. Other line arrangements satisfying these conditions will give similar relations, but the drawings of the associated curves will be more complicated.

As before, let d_0, \dots, d_n be the boundary components of $S_{0,n+1}^c$. The boundary component d_i is associated to the line L_i for $i = 1, \dots, n$, and d_0 is the boundary

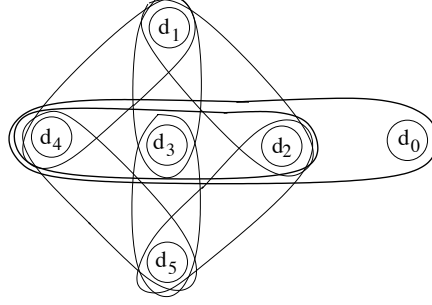
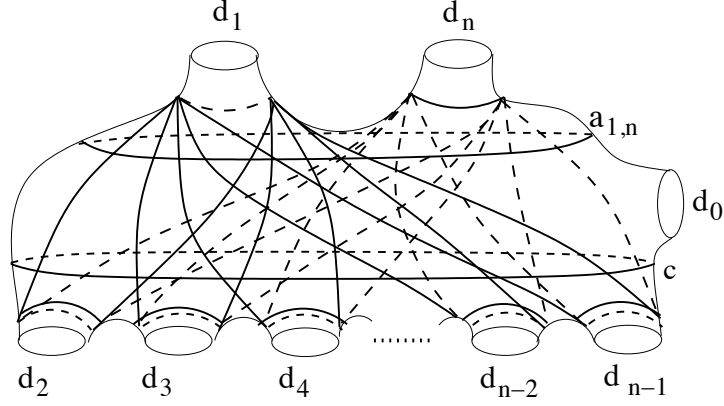
FIGURE 11. The doubled daisy relation for $n = 5$.

FIGURE 12. Drawing of the general doubled daisy configuration.

component associated to the “line at infinity”. Let $a_{i,j}$ be the loop in Figure 12 encircling $d_i \cup d_j$ and no other boundary component. Let c be the loop encircling d_2, \dots, d_{n-1} in Figure 12 (or, when $n = 5$, d_2, d_3 , and d_4 in Figure 11).

THEOREM 3.3 (Doubled daisy relation). *Let ∂_i be the right Dehn twist centered at d_i , $\alpha_{i,j}$ the right Dehn twist centered at $a_{i,j}$, and β the right Dehn twist centered at c . Then*

$$\partial_0 \partial_1^{n-2} \partial_2 \cdots \partial_{n-1} \partial_n^{n-2} = \alpha_{n-1,n} \alpha_{n-2,n} \cdots \alpha_{2,n} \beta \alpha_{1,n} \alpha_{1,n-1} \cdots \alpha_{1,2}$$

Proof. Theorem 2 applied to the line arrangement in Figure 10 gives the equation

$$\partial_0 (\partial_1 \cdots \partial_n)^{-1} = R_{s_{n-2}} \cdots R_{s_1} R_q R_{p_{n-2}} \cdots R_{p_1},$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} R_{p_k} &= (\partial_1 \partial_{k+1})^{-1} \alpha_{1,k+1} \\ R_q &= (\partial_2 \cdots \partial_{n-1})^{-1} \beta \\ R_{s_k} &= (\partial_n \partial_{k+1})^{-1} \alpha_{k+1,n}. \end{aligned}$$

(As one sees from Figure 10 and Figure 12, the order of $R_{p_{n-1}}$ and R_q may be interchanged.) Putting these together yields the desired formula. \square

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